BECRET

15 Fovember 1967

MENORALIDUM

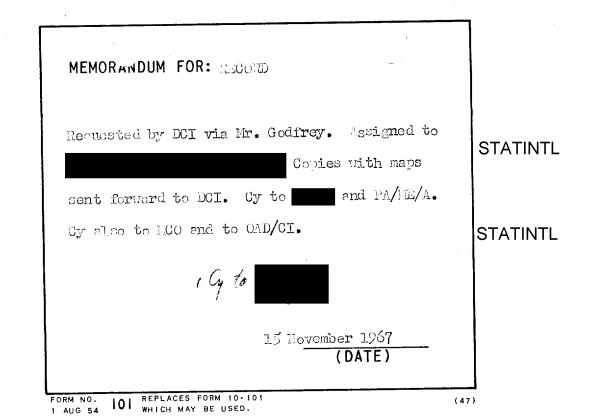
SUBJECT: New Fighting on Cyprus

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Pro 11 march 2011

- reports that serious fighting has broken out in the Aylos Theodoros Rophisou area (see map) about 25 miles south of Micosia. From the scanty information available, it appears that the UN peace force is in a poor position to intercede. A UN official believes that the affair was contrived by General Grivas, the Supreme Commender of the Greek Cypriot force. Grivas led a patrol through the area on 14 November and mat no resistance from the Turkish Cyprict fighters, although the Turkish Cypriots appear to have been ordered to resist the patrol. Our information is that another such patrol was scheduled for today, and may have resulted in this fighting.
- 2. This incident is probably the result of tensions arising out of an incident in March 1967, when a UN force removed Turkish Cyprict police from a police compound in Kophinou along the main Nicosia-Limeseol road. The tension then spread to the village of Ayios Theodoros inhabited by both Greek and Turkish Cypriots. A shooting match between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots occurred there last July. Since then, the Turkish Cypriots have said they would refuse to allow Greek Cypriot police patrols to enter Ayios Theodoros: they thwarted one such attempt with a roadblock. The UN has worked for a compromise in the situation, but has been determined to help restore the Greek Cyprict patrols by force if necessary.
- 3. Grivas' role undoubtedly has helped to stir up the long-standing intercommunal tensions on the island. Long an advocate of harsher treatment of the Turkish Cypriot community than is President Mukarios, Grivas may have chosen this occasion to recommon seme lost prestige, especially after the release to Turkey last Sunday of Rauf Denktash, a Turkish Cypriot extremist whom Grivas reportedly would have liked to liquidate.

No Foreign Dissem SECRET



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